



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**ADDENDUM 14-023 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE 12-082
DATED: November 26, 2012**

Name of DNS: 12-082: WASHINGTON STATE AMPHIBIAN AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT

Description of DNS: General amphibian and water quality sampling conducted on forestlands throughout Washington State. At this time research is focused on western Washington (west of the Cascade crest) in headwater streams (generally orders 1 through 3), including both fish-bearing and non-fish-bearing waters on lands managed for timber production, including state (DNR), federal, and private. This research addresses amphibian and water quality sampling methods, the most stream disturbing of which involves removal and replacement of streambed materials (cobble, debris, large woody debris, sand, gravel) from randomly selected units (generally ranging in total length from 1-3 m of consecutive streambed).

This method is conducted during the hydrologic low flow period. Another sampling method requires surveyors to walk in or along the stream channel turning only the surface layer of moveable cover objects in search of amphibians. Cover objects are returned to their original position. These methods are being used to quantify stream-associated amphibian presence and abundance, woody debris loading, and/or water quality as part of research studies designed to assess the effectiveness of Forests and Fish rules in protecting resources on managed landscapes in Washington State, or to inform other regulations and/or policies.

Permanent monitoring stations may be installed at some sites. This may include installation of rebar for the purpose of holding periphyton tiles in water in order to quantify primary productivity through *chlorophyll a* and ash free dry mass analyses (approx. 8 rebars per stream). It may also include rebar installation along the valley wall (outside of the ordinary high water width) for permanent photo points. As these research studies are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of timber management regulations on managed forestlands, we make every attempt to minimize in-stream and site disturbance so that our research results are not confounded by study design (i.e., sampling methods).

Our experience with the proposed sampling methods indicates that sampling activities result in minimal impacts to water quality. If a decline in water quality were observed (or measured) in association with our activities we would cease all sampling at all sites until the cause could be identified and addressed.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Marc Hayes
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Location of DNS, including street, if any: Statewide in Washington, initially in western Washington but eventually sampling in eastern Washington as well.

Location of work covered by this Addendum: West Rocky Prairie (West Marsh only), east of Tenino, Thurston County; Section 2, Township 16 North, Range 02 West WM.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW is providing updated information on this project that may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The updated information provided below does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.

WDFW has been working with Woodland Park Zoo as a rearing institution for Oregon Spotted Frogs (*Rana pretiosa*) for several years. This year (2014), they are initiating an experimental mesocosm study to see if the addition of native plants from an egg donor site can help to alleviate water quality issues and create a more natural rearing habitat for tadpoles. They are asking WDFW Aquatic Research Section personnel to **collect up to 18 gallons of aquatic plants this year from West Rocky Prairie (West Marsh only)**, and in subsequent years, if the experiment shows promise. All plants will be aquatic, mostly floating with a small amount of submersed species. An example of the species to be collected will be Bladderwort (*Utricularia* spp.), duck weed (*Lemna* spp.) and maybe Pond Lily (*Nuphar polysepalum*). We will be specifically avoiding collecting from the East Marsh area that contains endangered Water Howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), nor from Oregon Spotted Frog oviposition areas where tadpoles are rearing. Both biologists and land managers feel that the amount of material and the location it will be taken from will not affect either the Water Howellia or Oregon Spotted Frog.

Based on the original environmental checklist and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA environmental checklist addendum.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

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If you have questions about this action, contact Lisa Wood at the address above, SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov, phone (360) 902-2260, or fax (360) 902-2946.

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SIGNATURE:

